



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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COMMISSIONER KELVIN SIMMONS ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION AS PSC CHAIRMAN

Jefferson City (September 29, 2003)---In a letter sent to Governor Bob Holden, Commissioner Kelvin Simmons has announced his resignation as Chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission effective November 3, 2003. "It is also my intent," the letter states, "to continue to serve as Commissioner".

"When I became Chairman in July of 2001, I had a few specific goals that I wanted to achieve as Chairman of this Commission," stated Simmons. "For the most part, those goals have been achieved and it is time to step aside and assist someone else in a supporting role as the Commission and the State of Missouri move forward."

"One goal was to make the Commission more open and accessible to the public, press, the General Assembly and the utility industry," stated Simmons. "The recently completed natural gas town hall meetings are the most recent example of how the Commission is more open to those stakeholders. We held 16 town hall meetings in 12 different cities in Missouri in order to spread the word regarding the potential for higher natural gas prices this winter. This was unprecedented for the Commission." In addition, Chairman Simmons noted the Commission now has "more low-income programs to help the most vulnerable citizens who can least afford sudden price increases."

"During my tenure as Chairman, the PSC settled a rate complaint case involving AmerenUE which was among the largest in state history," stated Simmons. The agreement approved by the Commission in this case results in rate reductions of approximately \$110 million on an annual basis by April 2004. The agreement also called for a one-time bill credit which occurred in the fall of 2002. "But this case was much more than just rate reductions and a rate moratorium," said Simmons. "It results in customer assistance programs and a commitment regarding infrastructure investment in Missouri which includes additional generating capacity as well as transmission system upgrades."

In the letter to Governor Holden, Chairman Simmons noted: "The state of Missouri continues to have some of the lowest electricity prices in the nation and the majority of our utility companies have healthy balance sheets."

"As an agency, the PSC has distinguished itself nationally and internationally," stated Simmons. "We recently received a national award for implementing our Electronic Information Filing System which has brought about significant gains in productivity and improved customer satisfaction. The Commission has also entered into its first ever international executive exchange partnership to assist third world countries with energy advisement. I am also very proud of the fact that, with my fellow Commissioners, we were able to implement the PSC's first diversity program."

Kelvin Simmons was first appointed to the Missouri Public Service Commission on May 5, 2000, by Governor Mel Carnahan. In July 2001, Governor Bob Holden named Simmons as Chairman of the Commission. Prior to his appointment to the Commission, Kelvin Simmons was a member of the Kansas City Council.

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